

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 9, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Thompson; Supervisors Grattidge, Jenkins, Wormuth; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Sheriff Jim Bowen; Undersheriff Mike Woodcock; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; John Mazur, Fire Advisory Board; Paul Parker, Malta; Barbara Thomas, LWV; Press

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order.

Mr. Grattidge moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2007. Ms. Wormuth seconded. Unanimous.

Chairman Thompson appointed Ms. Wormuth as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Sheriff Bowen distributed copies of his report for December, and reviewed the results of the Commercial Vehicle Inspections, the Plate Hunter results, and the amount received from the commission on inmates' collect calls comparing 2006 with 2007. He said they have two Plate Hunters; one was purchased from the budget and one from a grant. Chairman Thompson asked how much they cost, and Sheriff Bowen said \$20,000. He said these cover the County very well as of now.

Sheriff Bowen requested resolutions for the following two-year contracts:

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with the Towns of Clifton Park and Halfmoon to provide additional law enforcement services at an increased cost of \$589,306 for 2008 and \$619,726 in 2009. On a motion by Ms. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Grattidge, this resolution was approved unanimously.

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with the Town of Halfmoon and Wilton to provide additional law enforcement services at an increased cost of \$191,238 for 2008 and \$201,378 for 2009. On a motion by Ms. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Grattidge, this resolution was approved unanimously.

Sheriff Bowen requested a **resolution to enter into an agreement with Marcy Psychiatric Center to provide secure detention services at a cost of \$140/day per inmate commencing January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2009.** He said this is for the inmates who are declared a danger to themselves or other inmates. This is an increase from \$125/day, and the last increase was in 2002, he stated. **On a motion by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, this resolution was approved unanimously.**

Mr. Grattidge mentioned a study was done just before Christmas that talked about successful aging in the community. In this study, Saratoga County had the lowest crime rate amongst its peer counties of similar size. He said he would like to thank the Sheriff and our law enforcement people for the great job they are doing. This County is a safe County, and the visibility of the Sheriff's patrol in the last few years has made substantial gains, he said. He stated he sees the patrols out on a daily basis. He said he appreciates all of the hard work the Sheriff's Department does, and he requested Sheriff Bowen to convey that to his force.

Sheriff Bowen said it is the team that does it. I submit a budget, and you provide it to us, he said. The department belongs to the people, and we make it function, he said. Overall, we all work together. We have the latest equipment, and we just took on the County's wireless 911 calls, he said. He thanked Mr. Grattidge for his kind words.

Chairman Thompson said he would like to take a look at the Sheriff's Department's substations some day. Sheriff Bowen mentioned some of the problems the employees complained about in some of the substations. He said these were inspected, and nothing was found wrong, and he will be receiving those reports in a few weeks.

Mr. Butler distributed copies of the Animal Shelter's report for December, 2007 and briefly reviewed it. He said attached to this report is this year's Rabies Clinics schedule that he will be distributing. Mr. Grattidge requested Mr. Butler to send a copy of the press release on these clinics to the towns for those who put out newsletters. Mr. Butler said usually two to three weeks before the first clinic is when they put something out to the media. These dates are all on our website also, he stated. In giving a brief overview of the Shelter, he said they accept strays and unwanted animals. We accept rabies suspect animals from residents and ACO's, and we do not do anything

with nuisance wildlife, he said. He invited the Committee to the Shelter. He said on April 10th, they will be celebrating their 30th year. The first dog we had was a three-legged dog brought in by Skip Scirocco. He mentioned at last year's rabies clinics, 883 dogs were vaccinated, 650 cats, and 14 ferrets. He reported ten cats and seven dogs were matched up to senior citizens in the County for the Senior To Senior Program. He said in 2007, Mohawk Honda paid for the neutering of 60 male cats and 61 females were spayed. Next month, we may be doing commercials to promote the animals at the Shelter with Mohawk Honda, he said. They are very nice people who help us out a great deal, he added. He mentioned they have a volunteer program whereby people come up and help us walk the dogs.

Mr. Butler stated the 1st Busy Bone 500 Dog Walk at the Fairground last year raised \$500. This year, the event will be held on May 10th. He said the benefit last year at the Saratoga National Golf Club raised \$13,000, and this year, it will be held on October 11th.

Mr. Butler said as soon as our RFP is agreed upon, it will be sent out this month for quotes. He said three architects called today wanting their names placed on the list.

Mr. Lent distributed copies of his report for January and reported on the installation of our first 800MHz repeater at the Providence site; three bids were received for the purchase of three self-support communications towers for the Providence, Milton and McGregor sites. The bids came in at or just below our estimate. We are still waiting for one more sign off on the allowable height at our Providence site from the FAA before recommending an award; Bids for pre-fab communications shelters will be going out this week for the housing of the County's radio equipment. We anticipate recommending a vendor at next month's Public Safety Committee meeting; We continue to work toward our replacement of current microwave radio system. We are under a deadline of June 30th to have our new system up and running. T-Mobile will be reimbursing the County approximately \$599,000 to vacate our current system. In order to be eligible for that reimbursement funding, we must have a new system up and operating by the end of June; We became aware of an opportunity to apply for funding for equipment related to proposed new radio system. We needed to indicate our intent to apply for funding prior to this meeting, and we took the initiative under the assumption there would be no reluctance by this Committee to seek the funding. Our formal application was filed today. We are seeking \$1M in

funding toward the purchase of mobile and portable radios for our new system.

Mr. Lent said if any new Supervisor would like to talk about the new radio system, just give him a call.

Mr. Tremblay distributed copies of the Fire Services Report for December, 2007, and he reviewed the Fire Training Center classroom and Burn Building usage; the State Fire Training courses that were held and Hazardous Material Response Team activities held on December 26th at State Farm Complex in the Town of Malta and on December 28th at the Washington County Complex in Fort Edward.

Mr. Tremblay requested a **resolution to reappropriate \$81,595 of State Homeland Security Grant funds. Mr. Grattidge moved to approve this resolution. Ms. Wormuth seconded. Unanimous.**

Chairman Thompson said he would try to submit a replacement name for his Town on the Fire Advisory Board this week due to the death of Paul LaGalles.

On a motion by Ms. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Grattidge, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann